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12 FEB 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to DD/S&T
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SUBJECT : Background Information for Honor Awards

1. I have submitted under separate cover to the Honor Awards Committee recommendations that certain members of the CORONA Project Office be considered for awards. Due to the sensitive nature of this program and the special clearances involved, the suggested citation and reasons for award are in a sanitized form. In accordance with your suggestion, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional information of a classified nature to a cleared member of the Committee.

2. The basis of my recommendation for awards for these individuals is primarily for their part in the successful development and operational development of the CORONA J-3 system. As you are aware, the CORONA system has been operational since August 1960 and since that time has enjoyed a phenomenal success. During this period, many modifications have been made to the system to increase its capabilities and reliability. However, I believe the J-3 configuration represents for all practical purposes a new system in many respects and has provided a major increase in both capability and performance.

3. The J-3 system development was initiated in July 1965. The primary objectives of this program were as follows:

a. Design and develop a camera system which would provide:

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4. From a technical standpoint the J-3 development has been an outstanding success. All design objectives have been achieved and the first flight demonstrated the adequacy of the qualification programs and the reliability and compatibility of the hardware. Problems experienced on the first flight were of a minor nature and were corrected for the second flight without major rework.

5. From an operational standpoint the camera performance was better than as originally predicted in June 1965.

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6. The personal contribution of [redacted] is largely responsible for the successful development of the J-3 system and the continuing operational success of the J-1. This has been a considerable sacrifice on their part, requiring long hours and extraordinary travel to coordinate this program. In addition to the system meeting all its design goals, it was developed at a cost and within the time constraints originally established. This is the best possible example of their management and technical skills. The assistance of [redacted] cannot be discounted and certainly played a very large part in this program. [redacted] is being singled out for a higher award primarily for long and sustained superior performance in the operation of the CORONA program.

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Director of Special Projects

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